

# 10 CENT YOUNG WORKER

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE



MAY  
1923



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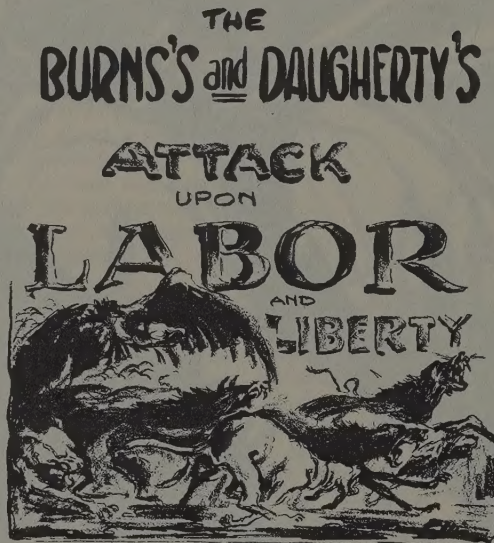
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# THE YOUNG WORKER

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May, 1923

No. 5.

## Greetings! Toilers of the World. This is May Day, 1923 *We, too, are on the March--Fighting to be Free*

By H. SYDNEY BLOOMFIELD

**I**N celebrating International Labor Day we cannot overlook our sacred banner of flaming red, the symbol of hope, of freedom and peace for the working-class; the banner that warns the parasitic master-class of its doom. The flag that has so successfully breasted the tempestuous days, years and ages of misfortune and come down to us enshrined in the same affection and reverence that shrouded and shielded it in profound antiquity, when it knew and comforted mankind only as poor and lowly slaves.

The origin of the Red flag is traced back to the ancient times of sun-worship, when primitive man bowed down in adoration before the bright, blazing rays of the sun in awe and wonderment; paying homage to this magnificent spherical body—this ruler of the day, for the light and heat which grew and ripened the fruits of his planting. This gorgeous beauty, great in bulk and radiant with heat was believed to be alive and intelligent. And as it emerged from out of the distant line that bounds the view of the sky and earth, flooding the land with its red rays, its color was likened to the fluid that courses in the veins of mankind.

White, is the color of the dainty super-natural winged angels, the professional palaverers, clergy, and the "unsoiled," lazy swine—the Bourgeoisie. Azure and white were the colors of the old aristocratic military flags of the Greeks and Romans; that is, as long as their ancient ranks remained "undefiled" by the presence of slaves or freedmen of lowly stations.

Scarlet is the natural color of the working-class. Down through the ages it has symbolized the conditions—the misery and joy, the hopes and aspirations of the lowly masses. The Red flag has been carried into battle wherever and whenever justice and freedom was the cause, with the exception of that time

when the Roman workingmen or plebians began to assume military and political prominence in place of the aristocratic rank and file of the army who became the officers and generals of these armies.

These officers knew how sacred the Red flag was to the workingmen who entered the ranks of the armies and cunningly managed to hurl the proletarian banner into the opposing camp, knowing that their men would recklessly throw themselves into any danger, fighting valiantly to rescue from the polluted hands of the enemy their endeared and cherished crimson flag.

The ancient labor unions and communes adopted red as the symbol of labor. That is why to this very day those born with gold-spoons in their mouths, the high-born gentry, the fat tax-exempt priesthood, in fact all the non-productive elements and unnecessary parasites—the

pretended pure and unsoiled have contempt for labor and its red flag. That is why the proletariat, the soiled and sweat-begrimed, have a natural love for red. "The workers flag is deepest red, It shrouded oft our martyred dead; And ere their limbs grew stiff and cold Their lifeblood dyed its every fold."

The red flag is the guide and inspiration of struggling humanity in every crisis. It was the symbol of liberty in the French revolution. And in the American revolution the red flag played an important role. The flag displayed by Gen. Putnam on July 18, following the battle of Bunker Hill, Charlestown, Mass., was red. In the early days of the American colonies the official flag was red. Massachusetts, New York and many other states floated the red flag in the revolutionary days. The red flag was the flag of George Washington. It was the flag of Lexington, Bunker Hill and Ticonderoga, with the motto "Liberty and Union" inscribed in its center. The red flag was in the thick of strife in the American revolution and led Washington's armies to

(Continued on page 16.)





# For the Struggle Against War!

## To the Working Class Youth of All Countries!

**F**OUR and a half years of terrible bloodshed had preceded the dictation of "peace" to the defeated Central European countries on the part of the allies. But this peace, once concluded, did not bring peace to a shaken world. The victorious states sent their own armies and those of their vassals without interruption either against each other, against the colonial countries, or against the Workers' and Peasants' State, Soviet Russia.

The various "peace" treaties are a source of continuous unrest in the whole world. Through them, capitalist militarism has multiplied its forces. From 6 million before the war, the standing armies have been increased to 11 millions. The whole of Europe groans under this burden. With the help of these armies the victorious states are pillaging the vanquished nations, as France is doing by her invasion of the Ruhr. The capitalists in the United States are trying to increase the military strength of this country.

In the newly formed states, Poland, Czecho-Slovakia, and Jugo-Slavia, all of them called into being to advance French or English interests, a powerful militarism is also rampant. This militarism, raging against the working class and the national minorities in those countries, constitutes a continuous threat against the peace of Central Europe and Soviet Russia.

### But the Imperialist Victors also are divided against themselves.

They are continuously haggling over the spoils, and numerous complications have arisen between them since the beginning of "peace." Everyone of them wants for himself the biggest share of the spoils in Central Europe, Asia and Africa.

The danger of a new war is ever present!

And it is you, who will be its victims!

Young workers and farmers, you are most affected by the continuous danger of war, because you will have to be the soldiers in the warring armies. Already in the last war a third of the casualties were young workers and farmers between 19 and 24 years. These sacrifices, however, do not satisfy the greedy lords of the money bags. They know of no other means to fill and make secure their safes than more bloodshed.

What has to be done to stay this imminent danger?

We must fight! And you must be the first to call the attention of labor to the danger threatening it. If you no longer want to be the cannonfodder for the interests of the moneybags, you must raise the standard of the struggle against war. Rally and follow the slogans of the Young Communist International in whose ranks

800,000 young workers and farmers are fighting: For the fight against the brewing imperialist war!

The Young Communist International was born in the struggle against bourgeois militarism and war. On the basis of its experiences it proclaims the united front of the whole proletariat, both young and old, as the only effective weapon to ward off the danger of war.

Already in last August the Young Communist International aware of its glorious tradition called upon the other two international organizations of young proletarians the Young Workers' International and the International Working Union of Socialist Youth Organizations to convene a world congress of young workers

to consider ways and means to ward off the danger of war, to prepare the struggle and improve the situation of the working class youth.

### They declined to consider this proposal!

Today when war is looming large on the horizon, we again appealed to these two organizations to begin together with us the struggle which every organization, conscious of its duty towards the working class youth, must enter upon. The gravity of the hour demands this of us.

And again they have rejected our proposal!

In doing this, they have shown their true face and have proved anew that they are not

organizations willing and determined to fight for the interests of the working class youth to the very last ditch.

You must realize this and act accordingly. The struggle must be taken up! And the Young Communist International, which has never been backward in fulfilling its duties to the working class youth, will lead it! And you, young workers, farmers and soldiers, must assist us.

Help us propagandize these slogans:

Oppose the new imperialist war with all the forces at the disposal of labor and in case of its outbreak employ the weapon of the general strike.

The cancellation of the robber peace treaties.

The abolition of armaments—navies, armies, militia, boy scouts, armed sluggers, state constabularies—every weapon usable in the hands of the capitalists.

Down with fascism—the Ku Klux Klan, American Legion and etc.

Down with imperialist war!

Long live the Communist International!

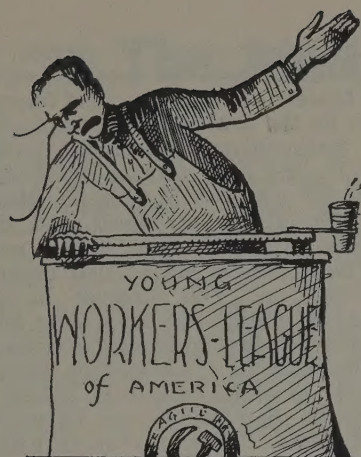
Long live the Young Communist International and the united front of the working class youth in the struggle against capitalist militarism and the threatening wars!

**The Executive Committee of the Young Communist International.**

### IF WAR COMES

"It is the duty of British soldiers and sailors, born as they are, from the working class, in no circumstances to fire on German soldiers, French soldiers, or any other soldiers who have sprung from the ranks of the working class."—J. T. Walton Newbold, Communist member of Parliament, in a speech in the British House of Commons, February 15th, 1923.





# THE YOUNG WORKER IN POLITICS

BY J. LOUIS ENGBAHL  
(EDITOR of "THE WORKER")

**A**MERICA'S workers are definitely entering the political struggle on a class basis. This is shown most clearly in the beginnings of an independent Labor Party taking its stand against the parties of Wall Street. The workers are slowly but surely responding to the slogans of a Labor Party, and of the unity of the native born with the foreign born, as well as the growing call for the amalgamation of craft unions into huge industrial unions.

In spite of giant obstacles, the forces of Communism, under the standards of the Workers Party and Young Workers League are successfully directing this growing sentiment into militant channels. The challenge of each new day is that no opportunity, great or small, should be lost sight of,—that every budding opportunity to press forward the struggle should be improved upon.

## Broadens Struggle for Communism.

Thus the American struggle for Communism broadens. It places ever new and greater responsibility upon its organized expressions, the Workers Party and the Young Workers League. Let the Communist youth of America once realize the unlimited possibilities of political, as well as industrial work, and they will throw themselves into it with all their inexhaustible energy and pent up enthusiasm.

Although the Young Workers League may be subordinate to the Workers Party as an organization, there is no reason why any of its active and thinking members, young though they may be, should feel subordinate, in duty or in possibilities, to the older members of the party organization. These are days when a year's actual experience in the world's revolutionary struggle more than equals a decade of speculation and debate in the days before the Russian Romanoffs were deposed from their czardom.

Heavy duties today, everywhere, fall on the shoulders of Communists. In Russia the fathers fell in the war of the czar, and later in the struggles to preserve the fruits of the Revolution. The young have taken their places. In Finland, classical example, the grown-ups have gone to prison or death at the hands of the White Terror, and youth has taken their places. Dissension has tired, and timidity has frightened into inaction many of the older participants in the militant section of the American labor movement. The lessons of world Communism, in the United States as elsewhere, are most effective where least is known about the schisms and discords of the past. That place is in the hearts and in the minds of America's youth.

The Young Workers League is making heroic efforts to reach the youth. Its delegates accompanied those of the Workers Party to the Cleveland Conference for Progressive Political Action. They were alike refused admission. Yet these delegates, of the party and the league, were the only ones that came to Cleveland with a definite program, not only for a class Labor Party of all America's workers, but for the solution of all the basic problems confronting labor that cry for solution. This program can and must be improved upon, as it will be, but more than that, it must be made a living factor in labor's daily struggle. It isn't enough to say that we are with the workers in every strike, we must be part of the strike.

Thus in the Knit Goods Workers' strike in New York City the Young Workers League took the lead in appealing, through literature and speakers, to the young workers out on their first strike. In this the League had the hearty co-operation and good will of the strike officials.

It is not essential that the political work of the League should alienate itself from that of the Party. There should always be a close working together. But it is without doubt in the province of the League to carry on special campaigns at all times.

Such a campaign has already been launched by the New York League against the ever-present evil of child labor. This is an effort that should win the support of all labor unions and young people's organizations, and appeal to the millions of young workers who have been pushed into the mills, the mines and the factories to fight the great battle of life without the least preparation for it.

This effort has a universal appeal. It will find a response among the masses of children in the textile mills of New England, among the breaker boys of the far-flung coal fields, among the boys and girls of the Southern cotton mills, among the youth chained to the fields of the West by the poverty of their parents following the land as penniless tenant farmers.

The United States Supreme Court has decided against the children. The American Federation of Labor recognizes the importance of this issue by its anti-child labor campaign launched at Cincinnati, Ohio, last summer. Yet it must be left with the young who must wage the war against American militarism and navalism, that grow greater and bolder with the increase in the ambitions of Wall Street imperialism and Washington "dollar diplomacy."



Karl Liebknecht waged his bravest fight in Germany against the Kaiser's militarism. Marcel Cachin, editor of the Paris Communist daily, *L'Humanité*, won the bitter hatred of French capitalism by addressing an appeal to the worker-military conscripts of France. Militarism developed through training in the schools and colleges, through the militia and the regular army is the immediate concern of America's youth. They should have a program for actively combatting it.

#### School Days.

School days are supposed to be youth's happiest "fool days," to quote from a popular song. Yet capitalism would make of them dreary monotony for turning out cogs for the capitalist industrial machine. Who, if not our youth, should be interested in making of the schools, even under capitalism, instruments for really educating the young? This effort alone would bring the Young Workers League into the broadest possible contact with the youth of America, would give it entrance to every school house in the land, from the little red shanty on the western prairie, to the great granite and brick structures jammed into the overcrowded sections of our large cities.

These few suggestions alone could make of every unit of the Young Workers League bee-hives of earnest discussion and careful planning, instead of frantic ejaculations to the effect that there is no work to do, in the words of a hero of history, "No more worlds to conquer."

It is not enough for our Communist youth passively to support the party's political programs, to give their half-hearted allegiance to the party's activities, and to the measures advanced by their own League. They can only be really useful workers for the Communist cause as they intelligently interpret the party's principles and tactics, and earnestly strive to carry them out.

Our youth army will not be strong because of the discipline of its soldiers, unless our soldiers understand the fighting orders given them. The first requirement of a Red Soldier, whether in military battle or political struggle, is to know the reason why he fights. The weakness of our Communist youth movement today, as well as the party movement, is that it does not know clearly why it fights, nor where or how to fight.

Such understanding by our young workers' battalions will be the most valuable contribution possible to our cause. It will provide real workers for the triumphing party of the future.

There should really be no line of demarcation between young and old Communists, between our youths and our grown-ups. Let no young Communist consider himself or herself a second-rate member of our movement. There should be no age-classes in service to work and sacrifice for our cause, although we do have separate organizations for special purposes. Let our young Communists strive to the utmost. The movement will find great use for its young speaker, writer, organizer, as well as for its older, more experienced, but too often less enthusiastic worker.

The performance of the smaller tasks in the political struggle, distributing literature, arranging meetings and canvassing workers, should only be the stepping stones to greater responsibilities. Our youngest comrades must ever prepare for the greatest tasks.

#### William Z. Foster and the Michigan Case.

William Z. Foster was the first to go to trial in

Michigan. He had the longest record of service to labor behind him. He had waged the most effective campaign against the bosses. He was the most feared. He was called upon to be the first victim of capitalist persecution. C. E. Ruthenberg, secretary of the Workers Party, may be the next to face the judge and jury in the capitalist court at St. Joseph, Mich. Thus the oppressors pick off the strongest and the ablest in our front line regiments. But it is a poor army, an army that faces certain defeat that doesn't have its reserves to draw on. The reserves in the struggle for the social revolution are the young men and women of the working class growing continually into manhood and womanhood. Capitalism cannot stop the growing forces of social revolution unless it slaughters all the babes in their cradles and leaves the world an unpopulated waste. That is what an Egyptian Pharaoh tried to do to the Jewish youth of his land and day. But he failed. Instead he gave to the world a Moses.

Let the important status of our Young Workers League, therefore, become apparent to all Communists, young and old. While it is ostensibly an instrument for reaching the great masses of the nation's youth with the message of Communism, it is also a bridge over which the best of your youth pass to the greater duties of the larger Communist struggle, economic and political.

#### An Example in History.

The labor unions of this country furnish the historic instance of young John Mitchell, at the age of 29 years, becoming president of the powerful United Mine Workers' Union and leading it through the epochal 1903 anthracite coal strike. But he fell a prey to the fawnings of Pres. Theodore Roosevelt and dropped into the lap of conservatism and reaction.

The Communist movement of America, entering upon greater and ever greater activities in the political as well as in the economic area, must bring up its youthful reserves and send them forth upon the field of action, perhaps before they are completely ready. But the Communist International, as well as the Young Communist International, will be their guide and their strength. The Communist youth of Soviet Russia will be an increasing inspiration to the aspiring youth of all nations. The youthful "War on War" everywhere will look for its guidance to the young soldiers and sailors of Russia's Red Army and Red Fleet. Soviet Russia will wipe out completely all child labor, and the question will pass from lip to lip among the youth of all nations, "Why can not child labor be abolished everywhere?" Soviet Russia will provide in the near future ideal educational opportunities for all children within her borders. The youth beyond her frontiers, even here in the United States, will thus be inspired, yes, even now they are being urged to greater efforts against their capitalist oppressors.





# The Aims of Young Communist Leagues

By NICOLAI LENIN

**C**OMING to the question of youth from this point of view I must say that the aims of the Young Communist League can be expressed in one phrase: their task is to learn.

This, naturally, is only a "phrase." It does not answer the principal and most important questions—what to learn and how to learn. The essential thing is that during the transformation of the old capitalist society, the training, education and upbringing of the generation that is to create the new communist society, must not be conducted in the old lines, although we shall have to use the material left over by the old society.

We can only build up communism out of the knowledge of organization and institutions out of the stock of human forces and means that we have left us by the old society, but the efforts of the new organization to build up a society different from the old, that is, a communist society, can only be fruitful if we fundamentally change the system of teaching, organizing and training the young.

We should therefore carefully examine the question as to what and how the young are to learn if they really desire to justify their title of communist and to make themselves fit to finish and perfect the work that we have begun.

## What to Learn?

I must say that the first and most natural answer to this question is that the Young Peoples' League, and all the young people generally who wish to have communism. But the statement "to learn communism," is too general. What must we have to learn communism? What must we call in general to obtain a knowledge of communism?

At a first glance it would appear that in order to learn communism one must assimilate all the knowledge contained in communism text books, pamphlets and larger works. Such a definition of learning communism, however is far too crude and inadequate.

If learning communism meant merely the assimilation of what is contained in communist books and pamphlets, we would very soon have a larger number of text books, communists and prigs. This would be generally harmful, for those people who acquire merely from books their knowledge of communism, will prove incapable of concentrating that knowledge and acting up to the dictates of genuine communism.

One of the greatest evils bequeathed to us by the old capitalist order is the gulf that lies between books and

real life, for we had books that presented capitalism in its best light and in most cases these were sordid lies, giving a false picture of capitalist society. The mere assimilation, therefore, of what is contained in books about communism, would be highly erroneous.

In our speeches and articles today, we do not merely repeat what was formerly said about communism, because our speeches and articles are bound up with our everyday work. Learning of communism from communist books and pamphlets without work and without struggle is worth absolutely nothing, for it would maintain further lack of cohesion between theory and practice, which was the most repulsive feature of bourgeois society.

It would be still more erroneous to attempt to assimilate communist watchwords only. Realize that if we do not avert this error in time and avoid it we shall have half a million or a million young boys and girls who would call themselves communists but who would be considered harmful to the cause of communism.

## What is Communism?

In order to make this perfectly clear to everybody, I will quote to you an instance. We call ourselves communists.

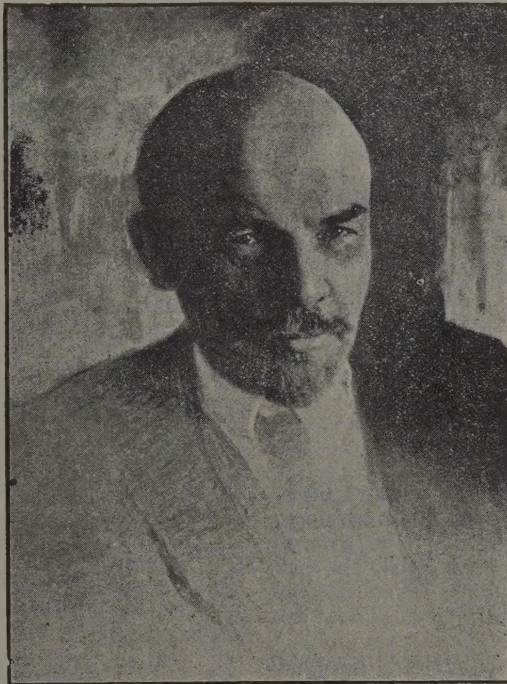
What is a communist?

Communist—is a latin word which means "common." A communist society means—everything held in common; land, factories, common toil,—that is what communism means. Can there be common toil, if the people should go to working everyone upon his own separate piece of

land? Common toil cannot be created all at once. It does not drop from the skies. It has to be worked for, suffered for, created in the house of the struggle.

When Kolchak and Denikin were advancing from Siberia and from the South, the peasants were on their side. Bolshevism was not to their liking, because the bolsheviks take their bread at a fixed price. But after the peasants had experienced both in Siberia and in the Ukraine the Koltchak and Denikin rule, they became aware of the fact that the peasant has one alternative: either to go to the capitalist to be sold into serfdom to the landlord, or to go with the worker, who, although not promising any rivers flowing with milk and honey, although demanding iron discipline and firmness in the hard struggle, yet leads to freedom from capitalist and landlord serfdom.

When even the most unenlightened peasants understood and saw this by their own experience, they became conscious followers of communism, hardened in the school of experience. It is such experience that the





Young Communist League must make the basis of all its activity.

I have answered to the questions, what we must learn, what we must take from the old school, from the old science. I will try to answer also to the question how we must learn this: Only by associating every step of school activity, of education and learning with the struggle of all the toilers against exploiters.

### Communist Work.

By a few examples, taken from the experience of the work of one or another organization of young people, I shall make perfectly obvious to you, how the educational work of communism must be conducted. Everybody is talking about the liquidation of illiteracy. You know that in an illiterate country it would be impossible to establish a communist society.

It is not enough that the Soviet Government should order, or that the Party should issue a definite watchword and throw a certain number of the best workers into this work. It is essential that the young generation itself should take this matter into hand.

Communism requires that those young people, those boys and girls who are now in the young Communist League, should declare; this is our work; we will unite our efforts and go out into the villages to liquidate illiteracy, so that the rising generation may have no illiterates. It is our aim to make the rising generation devote its conscious activity to this work.

You know that to transform Russia quickly from a dark illiterate country into a literate one is an impossibility, but if the Young Communist League will undertake this work, if the entire youth will work for the common benefit, then this League, which unites 400,000 boys and girls will be entitled to the name of a Communist Young League. The task of the League consists in that those who had acquired certain learning should help those young people who cannot emancipate themselves from the darkness of illiteracy.

To be a member of the Young Communist League means to give one's entire activity and entire strength to the common cause. This is what is meant by communist education. Only through such work the boy or the girl becomes a real communist. Only if they succeed through this work in obtaining practical results, they become communists.

Take the instance of work on suburban gardens. This is one of the tasks of the Young Communist League. The people are starving, there is famine in the factories and workshops. In order to be saved from famine it is necessary to develop gardening, but agriculture clings to the old-time methods.

It is here that the more conscious elements must take a hand in the work and you will see these gardens increasing, their area expanding, and their results improving. In this work the Young Communist League must take the most active part. Every League and every nucleus of the League must make this work their own.

The Young Communist League must be that "shock" group which lends its aid to every worker, which displays initiative and resourcefulness. The League should be such that every workingman could see therein a body of people whose teaching may perhaps be unintelligible to him, whose teaching he will perhaps not embrace at first blush, but whose work and activity mark them as the people who show him the right way.

If the Young Communist League should fail in constructing all its activities after this manner, it would

mean a turning back to the old bourgeois way.

Our education must become allied to the struggle of the toilers against the exploiters, in order to help the toilers solve these problems which arise from the teachings of communism.

Young Communist League members must devote all their leisure to the improvement of gardening, or to the organization of young workers' education at factories and workshops, etc.

We want to transform Russia from a poverty stricken country into an affluent one. And it is necessary that every Young Communist League should ally all its culture and learning and education with the toil of the workers and the peasants, that it should not lock itself within its schools, content with merely reading communist books and pamphlets.

Only through common toil with the workers and peasants is it possible to become real communists.

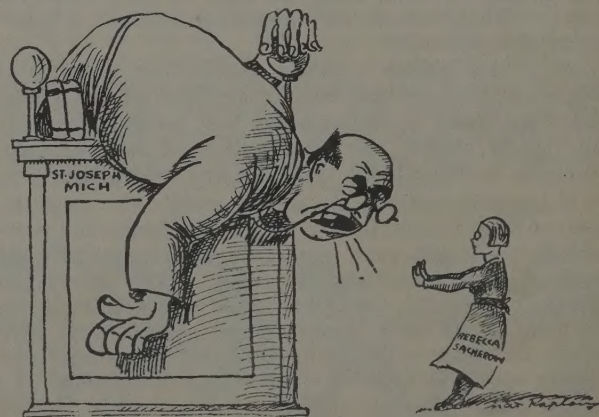
And it is necessary to make it patent to everybody, that everyone belonging to the Young Communist League combines literacy with industriousness. As soon as everybody will see that we have substituted the old-time pedagogical tyranny of the school by a modernized conscious discipline, that every young person voluntarily participates in Sabotniks—(voluntary Saturday labor) that they make use of every suburban form to help feed the population, then the people will consider toil in quite a different light than heretofore.

It is the duty of the Young Communist League to organize in the village, or in the immediate vicinity, systematized help in such work as—to take a small example—the enforcing of cleanliness or the distribution of food.

### How Was This Done in the Old Capitalist Society?

Everyone worked only for himself, and no one cared whether there were any old people and invalids, or whether all the burden of work fell upon the shoulders of the woman, who thus fell into a condition of drudgery and slavery.

Who must fight against such conditions? The Young Communist Leagues, which are to declare: We will alter this, we will organize squads of young people who will help in the enforcement of cleanliness or in the distribution of food by systematic house-to-house canvassing, who will act in an organized manner for the benefit of the entire community, judiciously distributing their forces and demonstrating that all labor must be done in an organized way.



"So you are trying to overthrow the government by force—"



# Among Those Who Apologize for Capitalism

By GEORGE McLAUGHLIN

**T**HIS is one of the quaintest worlds I have ever visited, and few better vantage points for viewing its peculiarities can be found than a menial job in a Young Woman's Christian Association cafeteria. (Name and address of place will be furnished anyone on request.)

The customers of such a joint consist of working girls, petty bourgeois shoppers, preachers, and welfare workers. The working girls can readily be picked out. Not being able to afford the high prices, they bring their lunches with them, and buy only a bowl of soup or cup of coffee from the counter. The preachers argue excitedly about the correct meaning of I Corinthians, 13, Verse 1: or the iniquity of their neighbors. The welfare workers eagerly discuss the means to "save and guide the working girl, and foster a number of different organizations for that purpose—all of which pay good salaries to the officials who do the guiding. The most distinctive customer is a highly painted, gaudily dressed peroxide blonde, who has a different man in tow every night. I am impressed by her originality in making the Young Woman's Christian Association her headquarters!

The Y. W. C. A. is not forgetful of its principal function, that is, to soften the edges of the class struggle, to convince the workers that the capitalist and their insitutions exist to benefit the wage slaves. There are several clubs composed principally of working girls with a few well-to-do girls among them. Meals that cost any other organization seventy-five cents are served to these "clubs" for twenty-five cents; and one or two of the "scissorines" (feminine for scissor-bill), told me how "lovely" they thought it that quite poor girls could associate and be intimate with "real swell girls whose folks are rich."

In spite of such expenditures to drug the working girl, the cafeteria is very profitable. In February \$3,000.00 worth of supplies were consumed and the gross income was \$7,000.00. The total pay roll for the

kitchen and cafeteria employees was about \$1,000.00.

The quality of supplies and degree of cleanliness is moderate. No examination at all is made of the food handlers to ascertain whether they are free from infectious diseases; there are no rules as to personal cleanliness, and the toilet and washing facilities are inadequate. The kitchen floor is swept at the whim of the colored roustabout and clouds of dust settle on the uncovered food. Left over food and odds and ends go into the vegetable soup. Before the used dishes are washed, the man who scrapes the scraps and goo off them, picks up all the butter that is left, and throws it into a bowl. Since his hands are dirty from rubbing off the food scraps, the condition of this butter can readily be imagined. Some of this butter is used in making pie crust, I know, but could never learn whether any was re-cut and served again. Probably not, since the foreign matters could be much more easily seen that way than when in the pies.

I had expected a religious atmosphere, but the pay is too little for the church devotees to desire the jobs, or to force those that take them into hypocrisy. The women are paid \$10.50 a week; they receive two meals a day free. They never work as little as eight hours a day, and sometimes have to work two hours overtime and receive no extra pay for it. One girl told me she cannot pay room rent, buy food and dress decently on her wage. Some of the women have two or three children solely dependent on them and how they can feed and clothe them too without selling other commodities besides their labor power, I cannot see. The Young Woman's Christian Association recently put on a drive for \$60,000.00, and, since the wealthy evidently did not consider its labor-drugging services worth so much; they fell short. Then they called on their wage-slaves to help make up the deficit. I refused since I objected to my employer exploiting me in two ways—once is enough. I was fired almost immediately afterwards.

## The Machine

By A. THORNE

**A**W-R-R. Aw-r-r. Ow-oo.  
The huge structure vibrates with the ceaseless roar and moan as steel clashes with steel.  
Aw-r-r, roars the enormous machine biting irresistibly into the steel held fast in its claws.

Ow-oo moans the steel. . .

The shafting spun across the vast ceiling—a weird cob-web of wheels, belts and shafts—purrs monotonously; only emphasizing the more irregular noises.

Through the whirl, roar, screech and moan; beneath the towering monstrous machines, on a chip littered floor, a small, greasy creature fusses about.

What is this greasy, overalled creature that is with such concern tending the giant machine, tightening a bolt here, oiling the machine there, carefully moving one or another lever, or anxiously taking a measurement!

What is this creature, that appears in the early morning, with the magic blast of a whistle, and disappears

when the whistle blows again in the evening?

Is it a thing apart and separate from the machine?

Strange seems the thought that this puny, grim being is the one who made the machine possible.

He—the master! He—the creator! Ha—ha—ha, roars the machine.

"You fool—you the master! You dismal, puny thing! What say have you over me, or even yourself? You of the steam whistle—you who brought forth by its shrillness and are withdrawn by it. You who strain your feeble nerves to catch each whim of mine. You whose price of safety in my domain is unceasing vigilance. You—whose unsteady mind dare not wander for one single instance out of sight of me. You—to whom each command of mine is a law—a law you only violate at the price of your flesh!

"Dream not! Think not! Hope not!

"And if you do!—If a dream that still persists in your soul comes to distract your vigil. . .

"If an alien thought steals into your mind and slackens your watch. . .

"If a hope lights up in your heart, but dims your

(Continued on page 9.)



# THE YOUNG WORKER

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## May Day

MAY DAY, 1923 finds the working class thruout the world recovering from the heavy economic, political and military onslaught of the past years of the capitalists of the world, and preparing to take once again the offensive against the robbers and murderers. Soviet Russia stands victorious; European capitalism droops its colors. Snarling and furious, but becoming less impotent daily, capitalist countries are being forced into another World War—a war which will totally break European imperialism and result in the establishment of Soviet Republics thruout continental Europe.

The Communist and Young Communist Internationals, leaders of the workers of the world, are striving to prevent the masses being plunged into a war for capitalism, and are urging and struggling to hasten the proletarian revolution. Perhaps the Revolution may beat the Capitalist War; perhaps, instead, the World Revolution waits upon the World War.

In America, May Day sees the "the birth pangs of a Communist Party" and the labor Movement hastening towards independent political consciousness and action—both mighty forward steps in the march toward a Workers (Soviet) Republic of America. The young communist movement, too, has established itself. One year ago this May, the Young Workers League of America entered the field to appeal to American young workers to rally round the banner of Revolution. It is gaining supporters daily. The American Labor movement is awaking from its twilight sleep. The Communist section—adult and youth—is uniting its forces and steadily bringing greater and greater numbers of the masses under its banner and leadership.

On May Day, 1923, the gloom of capitalism is deep.

On May Day, 1923, the sun of the Revolution shines gloriously.

## The Second Convention

IN ANOTHER month the second National Convention of the Young Workers League of America will be in session. We have passed thru the organizational stage and can now lay plans for the extension of our work of education and organization of the American youth.

Among our chief tasks at the coming Convention will be the definite formations of a Children's and Sports organizations. The delegates should bring with them as much information as they can obtain, of the number of young workers in their cities, how many school children, whether employed after school hours, whether sons or daughters of radical parents, etc. Come with data and with suggestions.

We want to publish our "Young Worker" weekly and to issue a Children's magazine. We believe both can be put over, but it will require tremendous hustle from the membership. Reactionary and semi-radical and liberal organizations publish children's papers, etc. and the influence of these milk and water

and sloppy, sentimental rags is heavy. A children's paper of our own is imperative. The delegates should be clear as to what support (financial especially) can be gotten in a move for a kid's paper.

Our members need physical recreation. Sport clubs of our own will hold our members together and will also serve to bring young workers into our organization. A young worker feels more at home among his kind; he isn't at all wild about scumming with mentally incompetent and stupidly-snobbish young bourgeois. Unluckily, to get any sort of amusement, he often finds that he must join the dopepeddling capitalist institution such as the Y. M. C. A., etc. Young Workers League Sport club will fill the physical needs of our members and bring additional young workers to us. To bring the young worker or student to us, is the beginning of his working class education. Thereafter, education proceeds apace.

Let us be ready, then, to put over Sports and Shildren's organizations at our coming Convention and we shall have struck two more blows at the rapidly-sinking and weakening vitals of the capitalist class.

## Shop Nuclei

AS the first step towards changing our organizational form, a registration bulletin has been issued by the national organization. Our goal is a well-functioning shop nuclei form of organization. The bulletin sent out by the national office in detail explains what is meant by "Shop Nuclei."

We are sure the majority of our members will agree with the contemplated change. It might be added that The Young Communist League of Russia, from its very start, was based on the shop nuclei form of organization; and today the Y. C. L. of Russia is the only mass working-class youth organization in existence. No doubt the fact that the revolution is already accomplished in Russia accounts to a great measure for this; but it was agreed by all the delegates at the Third Congress of the Y. C. I. that the only road to a live, mass organization is the shop nuclei.

Just think about it. Here are three of our members in a particular factory. They know personally their fellow young workers; they know the conditions of the factory; they are part, not only of the working-class, but the immediate group of their fellow wage-slaves. None will doubt that by working consistently within their shop for our immediate demands they can more easily gain the confidence and following of the young workers who work side by side with them. Our whole activity is, in this way, transferred from the branch to the shop.

True there is a great deal of work before we finally arrive at the shop nuclei form of organization. It is a process; a growth. The task now is to make the change as effectively and smoothly as possible.

## More Child Slaves

HUNDREDS and thousands of little children slave in the South for the profit of the masters. Whenever anyone wants to show the depravity of capitalism, the baseness of our modern system of production, almost invariably the exploitation of the child laborers in the cotton fields in Tennessee or the shrimp industry in Florida and Mississippi is pointed to.

But every new investigation reveals worse exploitation of children. Michigan is the latest state to come under the searchlight of child labor investigations, and the facts revealed are horrible. Hundreds of children six years of age and over slaving their young lives away so that the sugar trust might grow rich. The working day for the child workers in the Michigan beet fields begins at six o'clock in the morning, and, continuing with the shortest possible rest, until six, seven and sometimes



eight or later in the evening. Over a fourth of the children reported eleven to fifteen hours daily work in the fields.

What an awful monument it would make were the millions of children slain in the factories, mines and mills heaped into one pile! And the end is not yet. Daily the stack of dead children grows greater and it will not end until the workers put an end to capitalism. As young workers our task is plain.

## "Treat 'em Rough"

"Americanize the youth," is the frantic slogan of that section of the capitalist class which recognizes the importance of drugging the young worker so that their instinctive rebellious spirit may not work against the existance of the present form of society. There are many ways of injecting the serum of "Americanization" into the bodies of the working youth. The common way is through the schools, church and the Boy Scouts, and so on. There are, also, other methods, such of the type deemed more effective by the American Legion, the Ku Klux Klan—in short the American Fascisti.

An example has recently come to light. Martin Tabert, a North Dakota boy, was whipped to death in a Florida lumber camp, where he had been put to work by prison authorities near Jacksonville, Fla. The facts have just come to light, though this occurred two years ago. Tabert was arrested for beating his way on a freight train and was fined 25.00. He could not supply the money and was put to work in the lumber camp. Tabert was sick and could not work. To refuse to slave is un-American, and so the whip was applied as a remedy. Tabert was struck 35 to 50 times with a four-inch strap, five feet long, weighing about seven pounds. His condition became worse.

Lying on a dirty bunk, the boy from North Dakota got no care. Just before his death some of the men asked the whipping boss to go in and see Tabert, but Higgenbotham (the whipping boss) grew pale and would not . . . Witnesses who prepared Tabert's body for burial will testify that his back was bruised and blistered and the flesh cut and swollen. He was buried in trousers which had belonged to an escaped negro convict. Four prisoners were detailed to do the burying; there was no ceremony.

## Birthdays in May of Political Prisoners

Birthdays in May of political prisoners confined in American Prisons, are announced by the Workers' National Prison Comfort Club, 2923 Chestnut St., Milwaukee, Wisconsin, as follows:

At Leavenworth, Kansas, Box No. 7: May 18, Richard Brazier, No. 13103; May 22, Myron Sprague, No. 13581; May 30, Geo. O'Connel, No. 13576.

At San Quentin Penitentiary, San Quentin, Calif.: May 18, David Caplan, Reg. No. 30220.

(Continued from page 7.)

vision of me! . . .

"Beware!

"I will snatch you out of your reverie! I will seize your infirm body and I will mutilate its flesh. I will tear your limbs, joint from joint. And I will crush your mellow bones.

"You—my master! Ha-aha-ha," rolls the steely roar from end to end of the colossal structure . . .

The June issue of the YOUNG WORKER will be delayed for a few days in order to include some reports on the Second National Convention of the Young Workers League, to be held in Chicago May 20—21.

## SCISSOR-BILL JR. SAYS:

### A Bad Sign.

A negro came into a dentist's office to have a tooth pulled. After laboring hard for nearly an hour with the big tusk, imagine the dentist's surprise when the darky said: "Thank you for yo' trouble sir, I saw your sign out in front and I axed a man what it said and he says: 'Teeth pulled without pay'n' (pain) so I jest naturlly come in.' That was a dark cloud without a silver lining.

\* \* \*

After reading a bank advertizement "We make the interest of our depositors our interest," Scissor Bill Jr. said "I always said that the interest of Capital and Labor was the same."

\* \* \*

Roses are red  
Violets are blue  
I loved the Stenographer  
My boss loved her too.

One day we were loving  
Right by her desk  
The boss came walking in  
I need not tell you the rest.

'Tis recorded that Adam  
All because of mother Eve,  
Lost his job in the Garden  
And had to leave.

If you love a girl  
And your boss loves her too,  
Wait to spoon in the moon light  
What ever you do.

Roses are red  
Shamrocks are green,  
The boss owns the world  
It is plain to be seen.

\* \* \*

### Scissor Bill to Oppose Policy of NEC at YWL Convention.

(CRANBERRY CROSSROADS, April 30th.) By Special Staff Correspondent.—In an interview with our correspondent, Scissor Bill Jr. declares that he will introduce a resolution prohibiting the branches from using the Origin of the Family by Engels as a text book. It is reported he claims, that in one branch where this was used two marriages occurred.

\* \* \*

### Put the Tools of Production in the Hands of the Workmen.

Tired Tim knocked at the door of a cottage. It was a chilly day and he was hungry. The old lady who opened the door took pity on him and invited him into the house, and placed some appetizing food before him.

"Why don't you go to work," she inquired.

"I would, if I had the tools," replied Tim.

"What sort of tools," she asked.

"A knife and fork" was the reply.

\* \* \*

### How I Became Rich—by Mr. Millionbucks.

"Why, Pat," said Mrs. Maloney, "What ever are you doing? Why that is the third time you have shaved to-day."

"Don't say a word," replied Pat. "A penny saved is a penny made. So that makes seventy-five cents added to our bank account for to-day."

\* \* \*

If you have a bit of news,  
Send it in:  
Or a joke that will amuse,  
Send it in:  
A story that is true,  
An incident that's new,  
We want to hear from you—  
Send it in:  
Makes no difference what you send,  
Or how poorly it be penned,  
If about Scissor Bill Friend  
Send it in.



# The Leagues I Visited

By MARTIN ABERN

**W**HAT sort of membership has the Young Workers League? What can be expected of the League comrades? What are their difficulties and their needs? While on tour, I have found the composition of the various branches to be very widely varied in age, in understanding, in abilities, in enthusiasm and willingness to work, etc. If we know clearly what our Leagues are, we can better plan the work for them. It may interest the Leagues to know more of one another; it may, it should help each in their work. Hence here is a brief review of the Leagues I visited.

In Neffs, Ohio, the first town I visited, I found an enthusiastic group of young workers in the League—25 of them, all miners and members of the United Mine Workers of America. Their knowledge is limited, but they are ready to learn and are learning. With the unrest among the miners daily increasing, the field is very fertile for us. These miner-comrades live quite a distance from each other, scattered among the houses and shacks on the hills; hence it is not so easy for them to meet, but they do so all right. Our official organ, "The Young Worker," with simpler articles, with shop and mine stories, would aid very much here.

In another mining town of a couple of thousand, in Daisytown, Pa. is a League membership which is very young—girls and boys thirteen, fourteen to sixteen years of age. The population is widely spread. These young comrades, to be successful at all in reaching the other young people in the vicinity, must combine closely their educational work with social diversion. As in the larger cities, few of the varieties for amusement, recreation, social pleasure (real and alleged) are to be found in these isolated communities. Thus the bourgeois organizations—church, clubs, etc.—will, with their cheap, tawdry attractions, pull the young people to them unless we, along with our education, present to them better and cleaner social diversions. Our literature has been somewhat too heavy and academic for this and some other Leagues. One of the League girls asked, "Won't you give us more stories and pictures in the 'Young Worker'; then we can get many more to read it?" Daisytown League is progressing nicely. With more class struggle stories, simply illustrated, this and other Leagues with similar needs will travel the road toward communism more swiftly and surely.

Nearby Daisytown, Pa. is a steel town, Monessen, Pa. The age average of the League members is about sixteen. Most of the members work in the steel mills and glass factories (the girl comrades mainly in the latter). There are also a number of elementary school students. Thoroly alive, the League is conducting a study class regularly (it has taken up a number of communist pamphlets,—the League program, "Youth Under Americanism," etc.) and is disposing of much literature. The Workers Party lends all the help it can. The Monessen and Daisytown comrades often co-operate in staging programs, such as Liebknecht Day, etc. Athletic activity, provided thru the

gymnasium in the Finnish Hall, keeps the comrades together easily. Its persistent educational work is most encouraging, providing the intellectual basis for holding the comrades together and for getting work done. Communist understanding is increasing here and elsewhere—and that is the strongest chain, the best weapon for our work and aims.

The seventy comrades in the Pittsburgh League are chiefly Jewish-speaking. There is not a riper field for the Young Workers League than the Pittsburgh District. The miners in the coke region are strongly aroused over the recent labor developments (the Fayette County Lockout, the miners betrayal by Lewis, the Militant Miners Movement). Thousands of young workers employed in the steel mills in Pittsburgh, McKeesport, Homestead and other nearby towns, are overly ripe for radical

direction and education. The Pittsburgh League needs but to approach these workers to interest them. The Pittsburgh League has many capable and clear comrades. They have to push themselves more among the English-speaking workers and their organization will boom. A larger English branch formed by uniting the small English branch with the English-speaking comrades in the language branch will be the first step in that direction. Many of the comrades are attending evening schools, learning English, etc. This is all very well. In the League educational work, the work must take on a definite working class color, and all tendencies to "broaden" communist education by general and variety-house education, must be eliminated. However, the latter

**Enthusiasm, strong sentiments, ability to learn and to do things--The young workers have these much needed qualities. The Y. W. L. will educate them in the principles of the class struggle and Communism ... Then like one man we will march toward our goal--Communism.**



danger is slight. The League members are mostly in the clothing trades, organized either in the International Ladies Garment Workers or the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union. District Organizer Merrick of the Workers Party knows the value of a young workers movement and can be depended upon to lend much support to the League.

In our League in Bethlehem, Pa. the comrades are now taking a better interest in the Branch and becoming more active in the educational work. There had been a tendency to let one or two comrades do all the work. This is bad; for such an organization will never be an independent, self-reliant League, but one learning for support on someone else. This support gone, the organization breaks to pieces. But the Bethlehem comrades are now rousing themselves. The Bethlehem comrades have a hard row to make. Nearly all of them are employed for twelve hours a day in the steel mills of Schwab Time is hence very limited for League work. An athletic and soccer club has been a fine medium for keeping the comrades together. All of them do not speak English yet, but the Hungarian W. P. paper, "Elore," publishes much youth material. The members thus keep informed.

There is no League in Reading, Pa., one of the few strongholds of the yellow socialists. I found a few young people, however, interested in the Young Workers League. With co-operation from the Workers Party a League can be formed

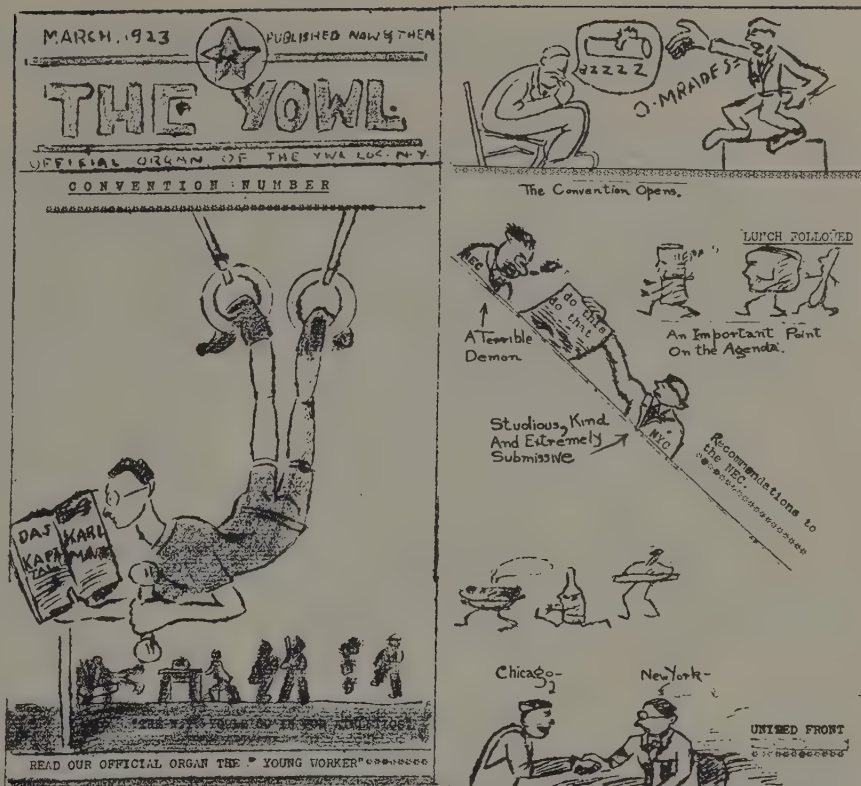


which will do good work. The best material is to be found among the steel hands. A few telephone operators are in absolute accord with the policy and aims of the Young Workers League, but because they work nights, it is very difficult for them to meet.

Our membership in Philadelphia consists chiefly of members of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers and the International Ladies Clothing Workers. Not enough effort by any means has been made to reach the American and English-speaking young workers. Further, many comrades in the Italian and Jewish branches could speak English, and yet they remained in the League branches. An English branch is being formed of these comrades, and this will better enable them to attract English-speaking young workers. In the small cities, most of the comrades are inexperienced in conducting meetings, in carrying on the educational work. But in the larger cities, there are always to be found a number of comrades with experience and understanding. In Philadelphia there are a number of comrades who are able to take hold of class work and to speak at meetings of all kinds. Here and in other of the larger cities, there has been an unnecessary modesty in these matters. Let them but plunge into the work. There will be mistakes and difficulties, but those will remedy themselves. There is no sound reason why Philadelphia cannot have within six months five hundred members.

New York can put over big, anything it seriously tries to. The League has the numbers and comrades who can do things. Many League activities shoved onto a few comrades can easily be performed by any of the members. The Executive must divide up the work more. A willingness to learn from other League's experiences is more needed. Its members too often have a New York outlook upon the national League activities. This defect can be remedied if the branches will undertake a study of the problems of the young workers in other cities, the prevailing industries, organization of the workers, etc. The New York membership is vastly made up of workers in all lines. Discussing the daily problems of these workers and analysing them in Marxian fashion will result in a greater interest in the members and outsiders. Proceeding to study and to analyse the local and national concrete problems and events in the worker's lives, is the best way to obtain clarity in thought and action—in practice and theory. Wide reading and study are positive essentials, but is likely that a desire to go more deeply into communist literature will be better stimulated in our membership thru first taking up matters which affect or are close to them in their daily lives. New York has lately awakened to its possibilities and its capabilities. Work will boom there. A prophecy—a thousand members in six months.

The comrades in Providence, R. I. have been together for years. It is a capable and clear membership. But new blood is absolutely essential. In the textile mills are to be found many who will join the Young Workers League if properly appealed to. Hitherto, the Providence comrades have made too abstract and general an appeal to young workers. More concrete demands and information to the Providence youth, a bit more social ac-



Illustrations that appeared in the first City Bulletin gotten out by the Young Workers League of New York. Drawing are by Nat Kaplan.

tivity together with their excellent (but limited) educational work, will gain recruits and develop in the League a fine virility and strength.

It has taken a number of months for the Boston, Mass. League to get started. It is at last firmly established and organizationally sound. In the past three months it has been much more active. A number of the energetic comrades have been very busy in the Workers Party, but it has now become possible for them to devote the major portion of their time to the League. A stronger English branch is needed and many comrades must come into it from the foreign-speaking branches. From the boot and shoe workers, from the textile mills and metal works can also be gotten an English-speaking element. I found many talents and capabilities among the Boston comrades, but they have unfortunately kept these to themselves instead of putting them to the use of the League. The local and district organizations of the Workers Party are strongly supporting the Young Workers Leagues. Children's groups can be organized here for whom a children's paper will be necessary. Considering the high capabilities of many of the Boston comrades and the general clarity of the membership, their activities have not been up to the mark. But now there is a greater enthusiasm in the ranks. Boston should, and I believe will, rank within a few months among the three or four liveliest Leagues in the country.

#### No League in Lawrence.

There is no League in Lawrence, Mass. There are those sympathetic, indeed wholly to the Young Workers League. The Lawrence labor movement has been badly divided for years. A fine fighting spirit, but its strength has been too often scattered. Any new body trying to make its way is naturally not greeted with much enthusiasm. The few supporters of the League are working quietly; when they find the time ripe, they will organize a League branch.



## THE YOUNG WORKER

The branch in Fitchburg, Mass. is but three months old. A much-needed study class is now being organized. But there is a Sunday school class for those under fourteen. The League has a gymnasium club which competes with the Gardner, Maynard and other comrades in nearby towns. Most important, tho, if the Workers Party branch will provide teachers for the League (arrangements for this were being made when I was there) a faster and healthier growth will soon be noticeable.

Some very much alive young comrades are in the Maynard, Mass. League. There is also a YPSL here, but its activities are purely social and athletic. The Young Workers League, however, carries on regularly its educational work and hence is attracting the more thoughtful and intelligent young workers into its ranks.

A willing-to-work group is the Gardner, Mass. League. The comrades, Finnish-speaking, are swiftly learning English and hope soon to be able to conduct their meetings in English. Class work has not gone forward as swiftly as desired because of lack of a teacher. The Workers Party branch will hereafter arrange for this.

### Norwood Just Organized.

A branch has recently been organized in Norwood, Mass. I did not get an opportunity to visit this branch. The young comrades, thirtyfive of them, got together and organized themselves. This League evidently has initiative, it does not wait for someone else to tell it what to do. Norwood will march forward.

In Worcester, Mass. I found nearly all the comrades in the League to be less than fourteen years of age, but a more enthusiastic group, I did not see. At the meeting they threw questions of every description at me. A junior group organization has fine possibilities. It will grow swiftly. The local comrades in charge deal with most simple thoughts and ideas and the children grasp them readily. A magazine for children—that's what they want. The minds of these and other children are fertile and wide awake. Our next National convention must get definitely started with a Children's organization. Else are we indeed guilty of neglect in worker's education.

An English branch has just been formed in Newark, N. J. At my meeting there, a thoro discussion took place relative to the merits of the Young Workers League and the IYPSL. When it was over, the majority of the IYPSL joined the newly-formed Young Workers League branch. Some new comrades enlisted and now we have a live League.

There is no League in Rochester, N. Y., but comrades have organized a nucleus toward that end. There is fine material here—a number of comrades with a good knowledge of communism. Some are sympathetic toward the Workers Party, others toward the Proletarian Party, others apart form any organization. Should the communist element unite, then there will be the means of building up one of the first Leagues in the country. Meanwhile, our comrades distribute the "Young Worker," our Program, etc.

### Need Simplified "Young Worker."

A League has been in existence in Buffalo since the inception of the National Young Workers League. It was composed of Finnish young workers and students. These, together with other English-speaking comrades, have transformed their branch into an English branch. Educational work had been sporadic. Now a class has been started which carries on systematic education. A gymnasium club, a dramatic club serve to unify the activities. Here too, a simplified "Young Worker" and a children's paper is essential. The comrades are very confident of increasing their membership and activity. The formation of the English branch will push forward their plans.

As yet there is no League branch in Erie, Pa. The Workers Party comrades promise, however, to try to organize a branch.

Perhaps a Junior group will be organized first.

The composition of the Chicago League is excellent—in the vast majority, workers in all kinds of industries. A willingness to learn is there. A functionaries (teachers) class must and will be organized to teach comrades how to conduct meetings, take care of the various official positions, etc. It is this lack of functionaries which has hindered Chicago more than anything else. This is not the fault of the local officials. More training is needed. The educational work, too, has not gone forward as swiftly as it might because of lack of teachers, and because of insufficient system and coordination. The Chicago League is working hard to remedy this and hopes soon to have their educational work once again in full swing. A League such as Chicago's is capable of thoroly hauling itself over, remedying mistakes swiftly and then making fine headway. Sport and dramatic activity is springing up.

### New Blood in Minneapolis.

The League in Minneapolis, Minn. is reorganizing itself and getting new blood. Its weakness has been that a few capable comrades never got outside of their own little group and among other workers. Minneapolis has one of the most progressive labor movements in America. A Young Workers League can grow if the hair-splitting over nothings can be done away with. Some younger comrades have recently been added. Appeal is now being made to the sons and daughters of union men. The League is pointing out the possible role of scab, capitalist dupe, etc. of these young people if their parents permit them to receive false capitalist education. Come into the Young Workers League for working class education, is the appeal to these young.

Enthusiastic youngsters, nearly all students, are to be found in the St. Paul, Minn. Branch. A study class, this League's immediate and most important need, has been organized. These young comrades help the local Workers Party very much with the distribution and sale of literature. They like the "Young Worker" and will be able to increase its sales among other workers as the "Young Worker" becomes more popular and easy in form and content. The St. Paul League is one of our youngest, but is starting out well.

### Children's Paper Needed.

From my trip I find, among other things, the need of a children's magazine. I believe, too, that it could be made self-supporting very quickly. Further, there is no doubt that the thousands of children of the older comrades can be organized into Children's sections. They are very eager and alive and their minds are open and plastic. The "Young Worker" must undergo—it is already changing—a great simplification. Stories and illustrations in greater number. In the educational classes, discussion and analysis of the economic and political problems affecting them directly in their daily lives—interest in deeper and wider fields can thus be stimulated.

The young workers of America—in and for the Young Workers League. They are ours if we are determined to reach and to educate them. With simplicity and clarity, in the language of the masses, of the young workers, let us speak to them and they will come to us. Let us talk to the young workers of their daily problems in the shop, school, mill, factory and analyze these problems and events from the Marxian viewpoint. The young workers are ready to listen to the message of the Young Workers League. Enthusiasm, strong sentiments, ability to learn and to thing—the young workers have these much-needed qualities. The Young Workers League will educate them in the principles of the class struggle and of communism. For that is what the Young Workers League—a school for militant education of the youth. Then, like one man, we will march forward toward our goal—a society of non-exploited producers, of free men and women—communism.



# Literature and the Workers' Movement

By C. REVILO

**I**N discussing literature with a friend of mine not so long ago he remarked that my selection of worthwhile books did not proceed on the basis of any definite system, and in consequence I had recommended many which were entirely unworthy of being mentioned. True, each one of us has his own prejudices in these matters. And, therefore, I told him that I had no intention of listing "the world's best books." I have seen too many of these lists, and the variation in the lists is remarkably great. No, I do not want to pick any such list. All that I hope to do is to give a lead to some of those who want to read good literature, but who haven't found anyone that could supply them with a guide to it. This applies particularly to the young rebels who have no desire to plow through the rubbish that passes for "popular" reading today.

I cannot recommend the Bible or *Pilgrims Progress* to my comrades any more than I could *The Imitation of Christ*, St. Augustine's *Confessions* of the Koran. More than that, I am willing to leave out Milton's *Paradise Lost* and Dante's *Inferno*. There seems to be no logical reason why a reading of them is necessary to the cultured worker of today. They have been foisted on us from the dark, dim ages of superstition; and if we but become able to consider them rationally we shall admit that their places are along side of the other relics of earlier days. As historical works, and that alone, they should be retained.

Having mentioned the religious masterpieces it may be well to deviate from the subject under consideration for a moment to treat with religion—that reliable prop for the existing system, just as it had been for the ruling class systems prior to this one. Clarence Day, Jr. in his excellent little book. *This Simian World*, says of mankind:

"Having small self-reliance they can not bear to face life alone. With no self-sufficingness, they must have the countenance of others. It is these pressing needs that will hurry the primates to build, out of each shred of truth they can possibly twist to their purpose, and out of imaginings that will impress them because they are vast, diety after diety to prop up their souls.

"What a strange company they will be, these gods, in their day, each of them an old bearded simian up in the sky, who begins by fishing the universe out of a void, like a conjurer taking a rabbit out of a hat. (A hat, which, if it resembled a void, wasn't there.) And after creating enormous suns and spheres, and filling the farthest heavens with vaster stars, one god will turn back and long for the smell of roast flesh, another will call desert tribes to 'holy' wars and a third will grieve about divorce or dancing.

"All gods that any groups of simians ever conceive of, from the woodenest little idol in the forest to the mightiest Spirit, no matter how much they may differ, will have no trait in common: a readiness to drop any cosmic affair at a short notice, focus their minds on the far-away pellet called Earth, and become immediately wholly concerned, aye, engrossed, with any individual worshipper's woes or desires,—a readiness to notice a fellow when he is going to bed. This will bring indescribable comfort to simian hearts; and a god that

neglects this duty won't last very long, no matter how competent he may be in other respects."

So much for that.

Many people wonder, why I do not make mention of authors like Pater, Conrad, James, Thackeray, Bronte, Hawthorne, Irving, DeMaupassant, Moore, Flaubert, Huysman, Goncourt, Balzac, George Sand, Arnold Stevenson, Meredith, Artzibaschev, to mention but a few of the many that have been called to my attention. But is that necessary? Once the start is made, the young reader will be able to select for himself. He will become more and more familiar with the great writers. As he proceeds his tastes will develop and he will become more discriminating in his selection. Then, too, he will follow the critics more closely.

Just as we pass from cheap melodramatic fiction to real, literature so, too, do we wander from the purely literary selections into the realm of plays. Not only do we visit the theater, but more often, we read the plays. Ibsen's masterpieces are read, and Strindberg's and Shaw's and Hauptman's, Sudermann's, Schnitzler's, Kaiser's, Tchekov's, Gorky's, Ibsen's, Galsworthy's, Glaspel's and O'Neil's follow in rapid succession. A new world has been opened to us.

## An Author's View of Contemporary Literature.

"Indisputably the most striking defect of this modern American literature is the fact that the production of anything at all resembling literature is scarcely anywhere apparent. Innumerable printing-presses, instead, are turning out a vast quantity of reading matter, the candidly recognized purpose of which is to kill time, and which—it has been asserted, though perhaps too sweepingly—out not to be vended over book-counters, but rather in drugstores along with the other narcotics.

"It is begging the question to protest that the class of people who a generation ago read nothing, now at least read novels and to regard this as a change for the better. By similar logic it would be more wholesome to breakfast off laudanum than to omit the meal entirely. The nineteenth century, in fact, by making education popular, has produced the curious spectacle of a reading-public with essentially non-literary tastes. Formerly, better books were published, because they were intended for persons who turned to reading through a bent of (natural) mind; whereas the modern American novel of commerce is addressed to us average people who read, when we read at all, in violation of every innate instinct.

"Such grounds as yet exist for hopefulness on the part of those who cordially care for *belles lettres*, are to be found elsewhere than in the crowded market-places of fiction, where genuine intelligence panders on all sides to ignorance and indolence. The phrase may seem to have no very civil ring; but reflection will assure the fair-minded that two indispensable requisites nowadays of a pecuniarily successful novel are, really, that it make no demand upon the reader's imagination, and that it rigorously refrain from assuming its reader to possess any particular information on any subject whatever. . . ." Thus speak James Branch Cabell, one of the most capable and daring writers in America today, whose novel, *Jurgen*, (quite a master-



piece in its way) was suppressed by order of the U. S. government a few years ago. The ban was lifted only last year.

It is to be wondered at that Ben Hecht's *Gargoyles* has not been suppressed for it, too, is very hard and harsh in its treatment of the smug middle-class-know-nothing of today.

Schopenhauer, I believe it was, who remarked that poor and cheap books were like weeds cluttering up the mind. The truth is all too apparent. We cannot object to the printing presses which turn out the millions of copies of worthless books every year; nor can we too strongly protest against the masses who read them—for they are taught no better. The prevailing social system demands that workers possess only enough knowledge to make of them capable profit-producing creatures and no more. The system demands that cheap and sentimental literature be given to them. Let church and press and movie and novelist combine in supplying the mental chloroform to the masses!

As decaying and degenerating capitalism vomits forth more and ever more of its cheap and lurid fiction upon the people, there springs forth from the mass the beginnings of a new literature and a new art. The start has been made. Each day it grows stronger, firmer, larger. To be sure, there is much that is worthless in it, much that will fall by the wayside—but still the movement grows.

In our ranks, in the ranks of the young, are to be found those who must achieve the economic and political liberation of the masses from capitalist tyranny. But that in itself will not do, for there must follow this liberation, the liberation of the spirit, of the mind. And that, too, is the task of the young.

Weighed down as we are by customs, morals, laws and traditions of today and yesterday we cannot hope to make a complete break with the past—nor would it be entirely desirable. Let us then instead, absorb all that is best within this system, so that we may use that as the foundation stone upon which to build for the future.

"Be ye prepared, be not unworthy,  
Greater the task when triumph nears.  
Master the earth, O men of labor;  
Long have ye learned—a thousand years.

Out of the East the sun is rising,  
Out of the night the day appears;  
See! at your feet the world is waiting,  
Bought with your blood a thousand years."

YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF CANADA, DIST. NO. 4  
Winnipeg, Man., March 27, 1923.

Dear Comrades:—

We have recently received our quota of the "Young Worker" and wish to compliment you upon its splendid quality. At our meeting last evening we discussed several articles that appeared in the issue and were especially pleased with the report of the convention given by Comrade Carlson. He rendered great assistance to us while in session.

The league here is becoming strengthened, both in quality and in membership. We are attracting more and more of the real proletarian elements so essential to our movement, due to the fact that we are stressing our external activities. We find that by placing some specific task before the comrades in the shape of a mass meeting, demonstration or concert, that it serves to develop their initiative and also to keep their interest alive.

We wish you success in your coming convention, and trust that you will continue the communist activity among the youth

## Workers' School of Mexico City

THIS school is run under the auspices of the Union of Workers and students. The classes are held at night in one of the public school buildings in the heart of the city.

The school has an average attendance of four hundred, young and old, men and women, who receive instruction in the three R's, sociology, political economy, history, geography, mechanical training and public speaking.

I have had the opportunity to observe closely the class in public speaking. It was organized by Rafael Mallen, a Mexican, who has spent many years in the labor movement in the United States. He is an unusually eloquent and persuasive speaker, extremely capable, with a thorough grasp of the ideals of forward-looking labor. He understands the importance and the full significance of the United Front and the practice of penetration into all organizations by the workers. These cardinal principles he is developing in his public speaking class. The class is a month old and boasts an average attendance of from 50 to 75. The students are making remarkable progress. I saw many of them start their first three minute talk nervously and uncertainly feeling their way towards a logical exposition. I have watched Mallen patiently and sympathetically pointing out that their speeches lacked logical development, or that their posture was not impressive, or that their gestures were impotent, and after each bit of destructive criticism he shows them how a telling talk can and should be presented. His aim is to occupy as little of the central attention as possible and already he is dropping more and more into the background and letting the students take full charge of the work. He appoints critics from the student body, who carry on the work and call on the organizer only at critical moments. The aim of this class is to produce more intelligent militant workers in the labor organizations of Mexico. Some of the topics discussed in this class are:

1. Exploitation of the workers in the cigar factories.
2. The necessity of a workman's compensation law.
3. Necessity for closer organization of the workers.
4. Comparison of the aims and standards of bourgeois education and workingclass education.
5. The rent strike in Vera Cruz and its significance.
6. The significance of the works of the communist Mexican painter "Diego Rivera."
7. The practical difficulties one meets in organizing the workers who are still under the close domination of the church.
8. How the dangers of liquor interfere with the progress of the Mexican worker.
9. Anarco-Syndicalism.
10. Some phases of communism.
11. The United Front.
12. Fascism, etc.

Mallen has also organized public speaking groups in the various unions of the Mexican Federation of Labor. The Communist Manifesto is used as the text for discussions in these groups.

It is an inspiration to watch the Mexican worker marching steadily forward. And in spite of our feeling of industrial superiority, we have much to learn from him socially and politically.

By ELLA G. WOLFE.

of your vast country. If possible, we will send a fraternal delegate from this district to your convention, and bear the greetings and good wishes from the movement here.

With Communist greetings,

LESLIE MORRIES,  
District Organizer.



# Upton Sinclair's "Goose-step"

By GEORGE MEYLER

THE "Goose-step" by Upton Sinclair discusses the extent to which all teaching in American colleges has been warped into propaganda in support of the present capitalist organization of society. It is impossible to prove what is taught by the thousands of economics and sociology professors every day, but by research and patience one can learn who controls the destinies of these professors—and what happens to any, who are rash enough to break from the well drilled ranks by ever so little. It does not need a university training in logic to enable a man to deduce that, if unconventional ideas will injure or wreck a professor's career and reactionary ideas will lead to promotion, the young, the weak, the married, the ambitious and the uncertain will embrace reactionary ideas—and the rebels will be eliminated.

The book is interestingly written. It discusses twenty-four of the leading universities, showing the financial status and connections of the Boards of Trustees and also giving the university's record for heresy hunting or anti-labor activity. It gives illuminating incidents from college life in about a hundred other colleges. John Hopkins and Clark are the only ones with a liberal record and the Powers that Prey have obtained control of both within the last ten years. The University of North Dakota has had a checkered career, having been one of the bones of contention between the farmers' organization and the interlocked milling, railroad and banking interests. At present the latter are in possession, consolidating their position and quaking at the thought of the coming counter attack.

## Those That Govern the Schools.

The author's treatment of the membership of the Boards of Trustees, that govern the different universities is excellent. He states the economic brand of each member of each Board he covers. This is a little wearisome but it does hammer home the knowledge, that not only are our banks, railroads, mines and industries inextricably interlocked but that the spider web also embraces not only our endowed colleges but also our land grant universities. It is conceivable that these industrial barons of ours, who trample every law and moral precept underfoot to keep the workers down, who are willing to murder, rape, provoke wars and insurrections, kidnap the helpless or railroad the innocent to jail would be restrained by their respect for "academic freedom" from dictating to their professors what they should teach. It is conceivable, I say—but exceedingly improbable, and so their record shows. The author takes a malicious delight in exposing the fact that they are not content with using trust funds or the people's taxes to poison the students' minds but graft extensively as well. His dislike for indefinite statements is illustrated once more—he loves to give names, places, dates and all available details.

The crux of the book of course is the effect of such domination on the professors and on their teaching. Over and over again he describes in full detail the disciplining or discharge of some liberal instructor and the resultant conversion to conservative doctrines of his colleagues. All this is even more significant, when

it is remembered that these professors tend towards conservatism, that their environment moulds them into supporters of the present regime. In spite of this fact the National Civic Federation maintains a department to keep track of all liberal professors, prevent their getting jobs and procure their discharge if they succeed. In 1915-1916 nine liberal college presidents and twenty liberal professors were ousted. In his painstakingly thorough search of U. S. colleges the author was able to find only twelve radical professors among 100,000—and all twelve teach safe topics, such as Greek, machine-drawing, astronomy, topics that can not possibly touch the pocket book. They also keep their mouths shut. The professors have a union, but the majority of them have no more sense of solidarity than a rabbit, and the trade is only 2 per cent organized. Even this weak organization has done much good work, by curbing somewhat the arbitrary tendencies of the worst offenders. They do this by publicity. The inevitable result of this autocratic control, exercised by ignorant trustees is that all life and vitality in the teaching is smothered. The students, weary of chopped saw-dust, turn their energies to athletics and "social life."

Many features of the book are delightfully funny. The pyrotechnic indignation of a wealthy university baron, as he fulminates over the teaching of the doctrine, that he and his ilk are not necessary to the world, is delightful to one, who has nothing to lose—but his chains. These barons are sensitive. A student has already been expelled from the University of California for publishing in a student paper the U. of Cal. section of the "Goose-step." A student in U. of Minn. was threatened with expulsion and his paper suppressed for denying the existence of "academic freedom." He was a stiff-necked attorney and cheerfully discussed the litigation his expulsion would involve. The Dean of Men wilted. David Sinclair, the author's son, has stirred up a tempest in U. of Wisc. by publishing the Wisc. section of the "Goose-step." The authorities do not know whether to be severe and face the doughty Upton Sinclair or back down and let him twit them with their timidity. The section I enjoyed most is the description of the museum containing the relics of the founder of Leland Stanford. Among the relics are the military trappings of the senator (a political soldier) the clothing of his wife's sisters, his wife's fans, his child's toys, boxing-gloves, baby shoes and toy-drum. A museum in an institution of higher education devoted to such junk!

## BAIE DE WASAI LEAGUE ACTIVE.

THOUGH a long distance from any other branch of the Y. W. L., the Baie de Wasai Young Workers League is able to carry on in its activities in as successful a manner as any of our organizations in more populous sections of the country.

Waino Kauppi, secretary writes us: We have two meetings a month, an educational meeting and a business meeting. The educational meeting lasts four and a half hours. Our director is comrade Albin Heino; and many subjects are taken up."

Much work has been done by this branch for Soviet Russia and the Labor Defense Council. There are but ten members in the branch, mostly farmers.



## Cold Facts

MAY 15 CHILDRENS' DAY.

By C. S. WARE

### Anniversary of the Repeal of the Child Labor Law.

One year ago \$ \$ \$ \$ on May 15th, 1922, \$ \$ \$ \$ the Supreme Court of this \$ \$ \$ \$ land of the free and home of the brave \$ \$ \$ \$ Our highest tribunal of justice \$ \$ \$ \$ declared the Child Labor Law \$ \$ \$ \$ UNCONSTITUTIONAL.

\$ \$ \$ \$

1,500,000 young workers in the mines and the mills \$ \$ \$ \$ in the factories and the fields \$ \$ \$ \$ an army of child slaves \$ \$ \$ \$ are toiling \$ \$ \$ \$ toiling \$ \$ \$ \$ toiling out the lives \$ \$ \$ \$. Shrivelled little arms are outstretched \$ \$ \$ \$ Pleading for help \$ \$ \$ \$ Weary little voices are begging for rest \$ \$ \$ \$ Tired and aching little bodies \$ \$ \$ \$ the child slaves of America are celebrating.

\$ \$ \$ \$

660,000 children \$ \$ \$ \$ are working in the cotton fields \$ \$ \$ \$ in the beet fields \$ \$ \$ \$ and in the union fields.

\$ \$ \$ \$

50,000 are spinning girls \$ \$ \$ \$ and doffer boys \$ \$ \$ \$ working 60 hours a week \$ \$ \$ \$ working through the long weary nights, \$ \$ \$ \$ working 12 hours shifts \$ \$ \$ \$ under unbearable conditions \$ \$ \$ \$ in the cotton and textile mills \$ \$ \$ \$ slowly dying of tuberculosis.

\$ \$ \$ \$

Ten year old children \$ \$ \$ \$ in South Carolina \$ \$ \$ \$ are working ten hours a day.

\$ \$ \$ \$

In the mills \$ \$ \$ \$ of Georgia \$ \$ \$ \$ children under ten \$ \$ \$ \$ are sweating out their babyhood \$ \$ \$ \$ earning dividends. There are two states \$ \$ \$ \$ in which there is \$ \$ \$ \$ no age limit.

\$ \$ \$ \$

No limit \$ \$ \$ \$ to the ugly greed \$ \$ \$ \$ of Capitalism \$ \$ \$ \$. But \$ \$ \$ \$ as they trudge to work

### WANT TO CRUSH S. AFRICAN Y. C. L.

IN South Africa, a vicious attack on all working class organizations is being carried on. The Young Communist League of South Africa, though a small organization, is receiving its share of filth, slander and soon probably suppression. In a recent issue of the Rand Daily Mail under the heading "The All-Red Plot; Communism for the Children," the activities of the Y. C. L. are condemned mainly because its members were distributing the pamphlet, "A Word to All Adult Workers" in the high schools.

"Here in South Africa," writes Sarah Sabel, secretary of the Young Communist League," although labor is not nearly so developed as in the more industrialized countries, the same attempt is being made to crush the solidarity of the workers as elsewhere. At the moment, they are trying to introduce a bill into Parliament, which will make it practically illegal to strike! That is to say, before any union wishes to call a strike, the matter will have to be put before a joint committee of bosses and labor leaders who will decide whether a strike is justifiable and may be called. Of course, this is being fought by the mem-

(Continued from page 1.)

bers of the Communist Party in the unions. In many towns, out-of-door meetings are being prohibited—on the grounds that "traffic is impeded"—although the Salvation Army and other religious meetings are allowed . . .

many a victory . . . These facts should be sufficient to close the palaverer mouths of the present-day 150 per cent super-pay-triots.

In the Hungarian revolution of 1919 and on the barricades in the streets of Germany the red flag was ever present to give hope and courage to the heroic men and women as well as the young boys and girls who laid down their lives for freedom. In Italy the crimson banners floated from the roof tops of the metal factories that were run by the workmen . . . every where and always the red flag is the inspiration to greater and greater efforts upon the part of the oppressed to gain their freedom.

To-day, the red flag has greater significance than ever. Now, more than ever, the sight of it sends the heart of a lazy exploiter shooting up to his mouth and congeals his blue blood to the consistency of a cake of ice. It strikes fear into the hearts of the exploiters and inspires the working-class to renewed efforts in its struggle for freedom. To-day we view the world situation and behold the iron battalions of labor amalgamating, uniting and marching forward . . . here a little slower and there a little faster, but stepping forward nevertheless. Though we have received heavy blows we look back and see the great progress we have made while on the other hand capitalism is fast falling to its ruins. To-day we need not plead for help for our comrades of Soviet Russia for they have mastered the most adverse conditions. All our energies must be directed toward the building up an intelligent and united working-class movement . . . To unite the young workers as well as the elders for our fight is even harder than theirs, and upon us lies the burden of building a young workers' movement that will be clear and active.

To-day the red flag unites all the exploited and oppressed of the world regardless of sex, age, race, color or creed. To-day that crimson banner proudly floats in the air over the Kremlin in red Moscow, the heart of the international proletarian revolution. There, floating from its fresh painted red mast it blazes the road to freedom and sounds the rallying call of Marx and Engels through that clear and resonant clarion—The Communist International—"Proletarians of the World Unite! You have nothing to lose but your chains, you have the World and Happiness to gain."

"Look 'round, the Frenchman loves its blaze, the sturdy German chants its praise; in American vaults its hymns are sung, Moscow swells its surging song."

"Then raise the scarlet standard high; Beneath its folds we live and die, Though cowards flinch and traitors sneer, We'll keep the Red flag flying here."

bers of the Communist Party in the unions. In many towns, out-of-door meetings are being prohibited—on the grounds that "traffic is impeded"—although the Salvation Army and other religious meetings are allowed . . .

"The Young Communist League has also come in for its share of "free publicity." . . . Recently we distributed leaflets to all the schools, and an awful howl was raised in the press. "Poisoning the minds of the young," "corrupting the youth," and so on—and the question was even raised in Parliament, as to what steps should be taken to "prevent this pernicious propaganda amongst the young."



# An Ambitious Student

By PAUL NORMAN

**D**URING the fall of 1921, while attending college, I held down a Saturday job as a bundle wrapper in a downtown department store. I was located in the butcher department where I worked behind a long dirty counter wrapping big bundles of meat; meat which was rotten and unfit for human beings to eat, but good enough for the workers.

On Saturdays there were seven of us behind this counter. On week days however only five men were employed, and these, by working straight thru without a rest, managed to pack up the huge pieces which the butchers chopped from the carcasses. They were dissipated, dull-eyed, worn out wrecks of men, perpetually cursing and complaining and threatening to quit, but never being able to muster the courage to do so. What a contrast there was between them and the seventh man of the Saturday force. He was young and cheerful and keen-eyed and he possessed confidence and self respect, things which they utterly lacked. I remember when I first started to work there I was struck by the incongruity of his presence among such men. Not knowing that like me he was working only on Saturdays, I wondered what adverse circumstances had forced him to such menial labor and what it was that buoyed up his spirits. His energetic movements were also not understandable from the standpoint of the wage slave. I was filled with curiosity as to his character and history, so took pains to become acquainted with him.

When he told me that he was a college student much of my mystification was dispelled but not so my interest. He seemed to be a fine, likeable chap, modest and serious and very different from the average college student. His speech was precise and direct and he had no patience with vague statements and abstract philosophical discussions. He absolutely balked at discussing economics and politics. He believed our modern society to be good and unchangable "so why bother our heads about it?" At first I was greatly disappointed in him for harboring such narrow opinions, but later I came to realize that he was possessed of remarkable intellect; an intellect which assimilated exact or scientific data with remarkable clarity and rapidity. He was specializing in chemistry, he told me, and had already attained some distinction for his research work. His professor had complimented him on his talent, had urged him to make this his life's work, and had even held out the prospect of notable success and fame. And I, on my part, had implicit confidence in the genius of my new friend. Obviously he was of a very firm and persevering nature. He was passionately devoted to his studies. These two factors combined with his great natural ability fully qualified him to attain a high place in his profession. This then was the impression he left with me, when he parted after three months of acquaintanceship. During the succeeding years I often thought of him; I wondered whether his extraordinary ability had born fruit yet—whether he had done anything notable. I wondered whether I would ever hear of him, and so in what way. Probably in some scientific magazine or newspaper I thought, from an article on him or by him. I was constantly on the watchout for this article, and several times I even

considered going up to the University to enquire after him. But somehow I never gathered sufficient resolution to do this. And so time dragged along until last week, when I most unexpectedly met him.

I had wandered into the sporting goods department of a downtown store, and was rummaging around when I was met by the usual: "is there anything I can do for you, sir?" Startled, not by the question but by the voice which was strangely familiar, I turned around. It was my friend, the potential chemistry genius, and he was there working as a salesman! I was so overwhelmed that I could only blurt out: "Why, what are you doing? Working here?"

For a few moments he stared at me, without answering. Then remembrance swept into his eyes and with it an expression of bitterness and despair. He looked at me sullenly and resentfully and replied: "Well, do you want to buy something?" We had parted friends and yet there was such antagonism in his voice that I could see that his whole life had been embittered since then. I disregarded his manner expressing my pleasure at the meeting him. At this he became more tractable, and, for a few minutes we carried on a strained conversation on inconsequential matters. Then a customer came up to the counter and he had to go.

I was making a trivial remark while inwardly wondering if he would offer an explanation, when he brusquely interrupted me with:

"I suppose you are wondering what happened. Well! I had to leave the "U." to help support the family."

And that was all, for he immediately turned to wait on the customer.

I moved away to a discreet distance and watched him go thru the servile attitudes of salesmanship. A stranger could have seen that they were unnatural and forced. To me with my knowledge of his character and mentality they were degrading. Never as then did I realize with such painful feeling how anarchic was life, how futile was talent, under our present system. And never as then was I so profoundly convinced of the inadequacy, of the decay, of the bankruptcy of capitalist civilization—a civilization under which the proletarian youth, possessed of infinite talents and genius, is doomed to waste his ability and genius grinding out profits for some fat capitalist.

**J**ACK LONDON, in his novel *The Iron Heel*, written before the war, has displayed a thousand times profounder insight into the course of the world revolution than all the theoreticians of the Second International put together.

The great revolutionary novelist foreshadowed the Proletariat's march to liberty during the next three hundred years. He describes three centuries, not peaceful, slumbering evolution into the state of Socialism, but of severe struggles with alternating victory and defeat. Broken up into an exploited mass on the one hand, and into aristocracy of labor and skilled murderers on the other, the wave of proletarian upheaval now and again meets with defeat, and is drowned in its blood under the iron heel of world's capitalism.—Karl Radek.





# Clarity and Action

By JOHN WILLIAMSON

**C**LARITY and action is the slogan of the Young Workers League. Do all of us realize its significance? Do we try to apply our slogan in our work?

Before our actions are intelligent, we must have knowledge of our position; why the necessity of a Y. W. L. and what our aim is.

Persistent efforts should be made to carry on regular study classes among our members. We cannot expect these to be a success if conducted in the old way of one comrade lecturing for an hour or more, using terminology that the average young worker or prospective member doesn't understand. In fact, it generally drives the prospective member away. Different methods that will bear greater results must be utilized. In our branch we are trying one method, where an older comrade has charge of the class, and it is important that the person in charge has had some practical experience in teaching and understands methods that will not bore people to death. The comrade in charge assigns the study of a different industry to each member. The progress that has been made is reported at the meeting and the conductor suggests changes and books where material may be found. As the studies are completed the comrades will report their findings. This brings one in close touch with the actual development of industry. It also teaches efficiency in research work. The remainder of the study class period is occupied with a discussion of the actual process of production in the shops where the members are employed, taking every step until the commodity is in the hands of the consumer. In short, we are teaching economics in a simple and practical manner.

Our study work should not stop here. All books dealing with sociology, economics and history should be studied carefully. It is also important, that we keep in touch with labor affairs throughout the world. To this end all radical and even liberal periodicals should be carefully read, as often as possible.

The latter half of our slogan is equally as important as the first. In fact, one is dependent upon the other. Conditions in different localities will determine what is the best line of action to follow. However, we are all interested in building a strong and large organization. Let us utilize every avenue to reach this goal. Send speakers to union meetings and all other gatherings where we may present our position and message. Utilize the newspapers, if there happens to be one in your locality that carries on an 'Open Forum' column. Lastly, let us all realize that the most efficient and sure way of securing members is by individual approach. We all come in contact with outsiders either in the shop or perhaps in a social way. Interest them. Talk about the activities of your Y. W. L. branch. Then invite them to the meeting, making it as pleasant as possible for them.

Another line of work that must be pushed is the sale of literature. Several members should always attend all meetings where workers are gathered. You will be surprised how easily you can dispose of your Young Worker. Many times we limit ourselves to meetings conducted by ourselves at the W. P. to sell

literature. From now on let us appear at all meetings on duty.

Before concluding, there is one other activity that is being overlooked by some of our branches. That is the social part of the organization. In the past, young workers organization have generally deteriorated into purely social or dance outfits. This at all costs must be avoided now. Nevertheless, there is a place for social activities in our League and by a process of experiments the best possible plans must be found.

The above line of work, both study classes and propaganda, is necessary to make the Y. W. L. a real working organization. In the past in all labor organizations a handful of members have done the active work. Let us all try to give our League the reputation of being as nearly 100 per cent efficient as it is possible to be.

Our task is a large one, but who is better fitted to carry it thru to a successful conclusion than the working youth. We are not chained to past dogmas, we have the vigor, energy and pep. Let us apply it and make our League the vanguard of the Communist movement of America.

Only recently we celebrated Liebknecht Day. We saw that Liebknecht put his hope in the youth. History proved him correct, as it was the International of Youth that rallied the scattered forces of revolution, after the corrupt 2nd International had succumbed to patriotism. The International of Youth laid the foundation of the present Communist and Young Communist International that blazes the trail of International revolt.

Liebknecht and Luxemburg, as well as thousands of other comrades gave their life in the struggle to organize the workers and establish a Communist society. Let us all give our time, our energy, our ability as willingly as cheerfully and as liberally as they gave their life. Comrades, let us buckle to our task with greater determination to carry on, carry on, our slogan, 'Clarity and Action'.

## Ode to Levity

To sport with the wind,  
To dance with the waves,  
Unheeding the voices of care—

To follow the lure  
Of each moment's desire,  
And laugh in the face of despair—

'Tis moments like these  
Lend color to life,  
And sharpen the edges of desire—

So here is'those,  
Who glory in mirth,  
And laugh—while playing with fire . . .  
—Sar-ah Mehlman.



# Impressions and Incidents of Our Cross Country Trip

By S. MAX KITZES

## Part II.

### From Cleveland to Chicago.

A few days later at sundown, we stopped at Dover, Ohio. There we were advised to go to the mayor, suggesting the calaboose as a better-than no place to sleep in. The suggestion was well taken. The mayor asked us a few natural, expected questions as to our personal relationship, and as to whither bound, purpose, etcetra. We explained at the suppertable. We ate heartily, as is proper—being at the mayor's . . . (Gee if he had only known whom he had invited!) Our personal narratives interested the mayor, his wife and their children. She had taken a liking to the girls, and expressed what sounded as a sincere regret that she had no room to house us in.

So, after supper, the Hon. Mayor himself was our chauffeur to the jail. The steel cages, and more so the man behind the bars, sent a thrill through our veins. It took a few moments to adapt ourselves to this new environment.

The stupid-looking mayor, now turning judge, ordered the prisoner be let out and seated for cross-examination. The young man was found asleep on the road, the marshall (the mayor's son-in-law) stated. The charge was drunkenness. Obviously he was drunk. But he was at his wit's end. The mayor quizzed and the prisoner cleverly replied. "Of course, I drank," he admitted, "but only meelk and water," he added. "Only meelk and water," he insisted. "But what about your breath?" he was asked. "Don't yours smell after waking from sleep?" was his retort. At first the mayor feigned the seriousness of a superior, but he gradually grew mild (probably due to his feeling amiably disposed to his "visitors," considering that this was to be their "hotel" for the night.)

Dismissed—the prisoner asked for something to eat. He was handed a ham sandwich. Then he burst forth with: "Y' know, I can sing. Y' wanna hear?" "Sure," the mayor replied. So in an immelodious, in-harmonious, screechy, tuneless tone he broke loose with the appropriate: "How dry I am: how dry I am"....

When the mayor and his family and the freed-man left, and the old watchman with them, a solemn silence filled the chamber and the consciousness of being in jail (and not in a vaudeville house) again awoke. Inspiration entered and worked us up into a writing mood, and each feverishly wrote expressing our first impressions of the first time in jail.

If our present surroundings were through force and not through choice! . . . was the question in my mind.

In daring, adventurous spirit, I tried to experience sitting behind the bars . . . What uncomfortable curiosity!

But in the morning, on the open road, we were again FREE....

At the Toledo-Detroit cross-roads, we stopped at a Polish farmer and helped him clean tomatoes, in consideration of a promised barn for the night. While waiting for supper-time, a well-dressed, prosperous-looking gentleman, who had been talking real estate to the Pole, asked as to our wherefrom, whereto, wherefore, and so on. The excited interest caused an invi-

tation: "Come along!" You bet we went. In his Dodge Sedan he told us that he was keeping a batchelor apartment while his wife was on a hay-fever cure. The girls offered to prepare supper.

O, coffee! How many think they know how to prepare you—for particular people! . . .

The hearty meal consumed (by the way, on the road our appetites were always healthy . . .) we went onto the porch whence extended a long private board-walk into Lake Erie. Two benches at its end made a romantic ending to the boardwalk.

### Romanticism Was In the Air.

The waves ran their incessant races. The row-boat danced alluringly. To the left and right, on the banks, trees obeyed the command of the cool breeze. I feverishly watched the rippling waters dancing in the ecstatic brightness of the moon's reflection, until—clouds eclipsed the moon, jealously humiliating my moment-romantic eyes. Lightning zizzagged in spells. Awaiting the moon's reappearance, I comfortably rocked in the Wicker rocker. Stars twinkled through the clouds' crevices. The wind blew its pleasant breath over the lake—to me. Ah! The moon's victorious! She smiled alike upon me as upon the lake. My heart danced in rhythmic unison with the rolling waves . . . In all: what entrancing, inspiring, beauteous moment! Moments are my life! . . .

'Twas painful to part—to bed. But—

On the morrow, the call of the early red sun brought us to foot.

The day brought us to Detroit. With two comrades we spent our time on Bell Isle. With discovered acquaintances we stay the day or so. Desiring to "give us a good time," this latter simple couple "took us out" into a cheap burlesque show. A boresome, disgusting evening. But they enjoyed it. And the kids were too young to understand. It is this couple who has as its sole aim to save a coupla thousand dollars, and to go to New York in a Chevrolet . . . The following will speak for itself: Their laundry-store sign read:

### THIS LAUNDRY

OPEN FROM 9 A. M. TO 7 P. M.

was changed to read:

OPEN FROM 7 A. M. TO 9 P. M.

Just a transposition of figures, eh? . . .

On our way to Ann Arbor, our interesting "lifter" related to us the following: He had given two sailors a lift from somewhere in Rhode Island to Syracuse, New York. They had taken advantage of a ruling which gave them the right to leave three months before discharge, but without fare home. They had not known of the stipulation "without fare" until they were out. To be privileged with fare they then would have had to re-enlist for a year. Having twenty-seven "bucks" between them, tho they decided to hobo home (on the Western coast.) "Why didn't you re-enlist when you found you were left without fare?" they were asked. "We'd rather go to hell and back than re-enlist"....was the sailors' reply.

Our "lifter" also pointed out Henry Ford's Dearborn estate. A palace amidst a pleasant, vast green, en-framed in "Private Property" gates, as contrasted with



the dull brown, dingy, low huts in which the Ford workers existed—yes, merely existed. His co-operative housing plan for the workers works on approximately the following basis, he outlined: "The workers buy the huts by means of their monthly rentals, for a number of years, on condition, of course, that they remain in his employ. Should they lose their jobs, they lose what they "paid in" which is treated only as rentals paid." The Ford workers are "privileged" to certain "advantages" on condition that they comply with the rules set down by Ford. He wants to control the very lives of the Ford workers, and is therefore so "liberal." Only the ignorant consider Henry Ford a benevolent philanthropist, but—as the truth has it, added our "lifter": "When Henry 'gives away' one, he sees to it that Ford gets back two" . . .

At Ann Arbor, we left him, lunched, and visited the Michigan University. A medical professor gave us a lift out in his "anti-semitic," commonly under the following aliases: "tin can," "tin Lizzie," "rattle," "Ford" . . .

At the close of the day we found ourselves in Francisco Village. These villagers went one better on Christ: He only commanded: "Love thy neighbor as thyself," and they practiced so to phrase it), "My neighbor he be-eth better than I, try-eth him"—for a night's lodging.

So, sitting on the railroad station resigned to the cold reality, wrapped in our blankets due to the cold night, we read some short story, to occupy our minds with . . . A "native" gave us the "once-over." Seeing that we looked harmless, and with apparent good intentions, he—the "BETTER NEIGHBOR" eventually offered us his barn, on condition that we do not use any matches. Our quick reply was that the boys do not smoke. (Our girls did not smoke yet, at that time).

The good breakfast, at a very low price, put us in good trim. We skipped and sang, and laughed, and walked four abreast in absence of any traffic. We even at one time lay on the road awaiting the desired auto. Joyous, frolicsome, animated, vivacious youngsters were the four of us. And with such jollity we arrived at Hartford, Mich., which unhesitatingly deserves the famous alias "Gopher Prairie." This burgh had a four-block length Main Street, a Ladies' Library, a

Ladies' Rest Room, a fire-house, and behind it a cala-boose, and last but not least the "pitcher-show," which only came once a week . . .

Stuck for the night in this burgh, the Ladies' Library librarian, refusing to comment on "Main Street" and thereafter to say anything at all, the girls got permission to sleep in the Ladies' Rest Room, while the boys were becoming accustomed to sleeping in cala-booses (this time on upper and lower beds in the one cell).—And there, being nothing else to do in the rainy weather,—we spent the evening at the "pitcher-show," where we acted as wild kids, reading the screen-inscriptions aloud, laughing and applauding every silly part in the "pitcher" (aside: the entire picture). Such was our actual reaction to "Gopher Prairie."

A FIRE! Someone calls up the fire department. Noone is there. (The firemen do not stay at the fire-house, as in the city). At last a street-walker, or the watchman, answers the phone. He then calls up the individual eight firemen, whose telephone numbers are posted on the bulletin board, and informs them of the existent fire. They dress and eat, and stroll over to the fire-house to take out the fire-engine. When they have all assembled, they eventually drive over to the fire place. By that time, however, the house originally afire will have left no trace, and the neighboring houses will have crumbled to ashes and the fire would have died of its own accord. Such is my imaginative interpretation of Hartford, Mich., alias "Gopher Prairie."

From there, through Michigan City and Gary, Ind., a "lifter" brought us into the "Windy City," into Chicago, on 1 P. M., Sept. 25, 1921. First we went to search for our lost New York friend, whom we were advised to look for at the Tolstoy Vegetarian Restaurant. We asked. She wasn't there. We then looked up some relatives. For Chicago meant no barns or hay-stacks for us. Optimism (through our relatives) greeted us.

In the evening the four of us planned to live, as on the road, on communal basis.

In the morning we went out hunting—for jobs. Roosevelt Road and Halsted Street saw our first pathetic parting into four different directions (as per THE CALL OF THE ADVERTISEMENT) . . .

(To be Continued.)

## Child Labor's Hymn of Hate

By Budd L. M'KILLIPS

They taught me how to hate  
While still a child  
With soul untamed and wild,  
And thoughts still undefiled  
—They taught me how to hate.

They taught me how to hate....  
Inside a mill  
Where sunshine turned to chill;  
They kept me there until  
They taught me how to hate.

They taught me how to hate—  
Each bitter word  
Some hidden demon stirred,  
Some sleeping devil spurred—  
—They taught me how to hate.

They taught me how to hate—  
With childhood toil

In factory's turmoil,  
In Profit's strangling coil  
—They taught me how to hate—

They taught me how to hate—  
While others played,  
By Profit I was flayed  
Until my soul decayed  
—They taught me how to hate.

They taught me how to hate  
Their vampire breed,  
These overlords of greed  
Who on mere babies feed  
—They taught me how to hate.

They taught me how to hate—  
Their lust for gold  
Forced me into the mold,  
And now the metal's cold  
—They taught me how to hate!



# Massachusetts Holds State Convention

The first district convention of the Y. W. L., Dist. No. 1 took place at New International Hall, Roxbury, (a suburb of Boston), that famous citadel of Communism, on Sunday April 15.

Comrade Louis Marks called the convention to order at 2:30 P. M. He was elected chairman and comrades Tamer and Libeck secretary and assistant respectively.

Comrade Wm. Simons, Dist. No. 1, secretary of the Workers Party and comrade S. D. Levine, New England, representative of "the Freiheit", Jewish daily communist organ of the Workers Party. Both these comrades were enthusiastically received and seated as fraternal delegates who, together with 16 regular delegates representing over 350 members from eight cities made up the convention. Three cities were not represented by delegates.

The Agenda of the National Convention was read and served as a basis for our deliberations.

The discussion and debates were brief, thoroughly analytically and to the point and no time was wasted. We did more WORK in our single session of four hours than other conventions do in thrice this time.

The spectators that were present (and there were enough to comprise a sizeable mass-meeting) displayed a keen interest in the proceedings from start to finish.

The debate on the economic struggle of the youth was one of the outstanding features of the convention, and two important decisions were unanimously adopted; 1) That the Y. W. L. should launch a campaign (and co-operate with any organization) against the system of child exploitation; and 2) That the Y. W. L. should co-operate with the trade Union Educational League and other labor organizations in a campaign for the **unrestricted** admission of the Young Workers into the Labor Unions.

The question of militarism brought out some interesting discussion. The pacifist attitude toward this vital youth problem had no chance of raising its head, and the militant—the communist opinion prevailed and important decisions were adopted accordingly.

A complete revolution was in our attitude toward the question of Education and educational methods and following this problem came also the question of recreational and sporting activities, etc.

It was the unanimous decision of the convention that the Y. W. L. should organize Junior leagues and appoint capable comrades to supervise this important work, which is but an apprenticeship organization of the children in preparation for the real communist activities of the Y. W. L. and then into the adult communist movement.

The organization of shops and school nuclei was endorsed and the method of reaching many thousands of young workers by the use of the Workers Party Press as outlined in a paper submitted by Bloomfield, of the Y. W. L. of Worcester was unanimously adopted.

On the question of International affiliation, it was decided to maintain our present status with the Y. C. I.

After electing comrades Louko, of Norwood and Marks, of Boston, as delegates to the National Convention, the foundation for an active Y. W. L. in this district was built with the election of five active comrades to serve as our district committee.

All the delegates reported splendid work being done by their branches. Our district is entitled to four delegates, but in sending only two, we will be enabled to send the surplus money to the National Office to be used for organizational work.

The convention adjourned at about 7 P. M. in usual communist-youth spirit and the singing of the International. The delegates then hastened to catch their trains; for Monday morning the old alarm clock yanks us from bed and the whistle blows us in to work—but the communist ideal is ever with us.

They are coming, they are coming,  
To the school, where they will learn—  
Their rulers to respect,  
And their own class to spurn . . .

Down the street they push along,  
A dirty, drab, gray street,  
And crowd across the big stone yard,  
Like a flock of frightened sheep . . .

The yard is like a prison yard;  
Closed in by iron bars.  
The broad floor is cracked and dirty,  
It bears a century's scars . . .

They hurry across this yard,  
And rush through the half-open door;  
Look about stealthily a moment,  
Then race across the dark "gym" floor . . .

At each floor a light burns;  
A dim, gas light it is,  
And they scarcely see each other,  
The air is like a mist . . .

And up the dark staircase,  
Four and five flights of stairs,  
While the light looks down upon them,  
And sadly flickers and flares . . .

Not a word is spoken:  
Poor creatures, they dare not speak.  
For under the law of their Bible:  
"Blessed be the meek!"

—Nell Amter, 13½ years.

## STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912.

Of the Young Worker, published monthly at Chicago, Ill., for April 1st, 1923. State of Illinois, County of Cook (ss.)

Before me, a Notary Public, in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared Harry Gannes, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Business Manager of the Young Worker and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 443, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are:

Publisher, Young Workers League of America, 2517 Fullerton Ave., Chicago. Editor Executive Comm. Young Workers League of America, 2517 Fullerton Ave., Chicago. Managing Editor, none. Business Editor, Harry Gannes, 2517 Fullerton Ave., Chicago.

2. That the owners are: (Give names and addresses of individual owners, or, if a corporation, give its name and the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 per cent. or more of the total amount of stock).

The Young Workers League of America, a voluntary organization, through the National Executive Committee. H. Gannes, secretary, John Edwards, chairman.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent. or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.) None.

4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds, or other securities than as so stated by him.

5. That the average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the six months preceding the date shown above is \_\_\_\_\_ (This information is required from daily publications only.)

Harry Gannes, Business Manager.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 3rd day of April 1923.

(Seal) N. Juel Christensen.

(My commission expires July 20, 1924.)



World War?

WHICH?

Reconstruction?

# Cannons or Tractors

The Friends of Soviet Russia must send Twenty Tractors to the World's First Workers' Republic

*For this purpose*

## \$40,000 Are Needed

### *Voting Contest*

For every Thousand Dollars collected toward the purchase of the twenty tractors, one person will go as a **living message** from the workers of America to the workers of Russia. They will be received in Berlin by our delegate and vise will be provided for entrance to Russia.

#### **RULES**

- 5 VOTES—to individuals for every dollar contributed. These votes may be cast in favor of the person making the collection or anyone else.
- 10 VOTES—to individuals for every dollar collected from others on list.
- 50 VOTES—to organizations for every dollar contributed. Those votes may be cast in favor of the person making the collection or anyone the organization wishes to name. Organization must bear the signature of the secretary.

### One Dollar

from each of forty thousand workers will buy the tractors and help avoid another famine in Russia; another unemployment crisis in America; another war in the world.

## A Round Trip to Russia Free

will be given the highest number of votes in the contest.

(In case of tie, each will get a Round Trip to Russia.)

### *Join the One Dollar Army*

Friends of Soviet Russia, 201 W. 13th St., N. Y. City

Enclosed please find \$..... to help buy twenty tractors for Russia.

Name .....

Address .....

City .....

Trade or Profession .....

Record my.....votes in favor of.....

Shall we send you collection blanks?.....

## Friends of Soviet Russia

201 WEST 13TH STREET  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

Contest ends June 20. All blanks must be in by June 15.